The Journal

OF THE

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society on Thursday, 25th March, 1909, at 11.40 a.m. Present : The Hon. Geo. McGrath, Messrs. D. Campbell, A. W. Douet, C. A. T. Fursdon, A. C. L. Martin, H. T. Ronaldson, and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

Owing to the Legislative Council being in session, His Excellency the Governor, the Vice-Presidents, and other members of the Board were engaged. Mr. Ronaldson was accordingly voted to the chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Craig, who could not travel because he was not sure there would be a quorum ; and Mr. J. R. Williams, whose duties kept him in his own district.

Printed minutes of the meeting having been circulated, these were taken as read and confirmed.

The following matters arising out of the minutes were submitted :—

(a) Financial Statement. It was considered regrettable that the Legislative Council had not transferred the £100 set down for the expenditure of the Board of Agriculture along with the functions of that Board to the Agricultural Society.

(b) Conditions in South Manchester. The Secretary reported that the draft report was in circulation for the second time round the Committee, as it was only possible to get recommendations, practical and useful, after close consideration.

(c) Orange Industry. The report of the Committee was submitted as follows :—

The special Orange Industry Committee met at 12 o'clock on Friday, March 5th, at the office of the Society.

Present :—Mr. A. W. Douet, Half-way Tree, Mr. A. Lewis, Mandeville, Mr. J. McPhail, Bog Walk, Mr. A. W. Gardner, Kingston, Mr. H. C. Bennett, Spanish Town, and Jno. Barclay, the Secretary.

The meeting was advertised as open to the public, but only Mr. W. H. Caird, of the firm of J. Hales Caird and Co., London, E.C., and Mr. Spyers, of Bog Walk, attended.

Mr. A. W. Douet was voted to the chair.

Apologies for absence were received from the Hon. H. H. Cousins, Mr. A. E. Wigan, Hartlands, Mr. C. F. Scudamore, Montego Bay, Hon. Geo.

McGrath, Ewarton, Mr. L. Sturridge, Mandeville, who wrote their views. *Mr. Cousins also sent on the views of Mr. Cradwick, and Mr. F. G.* Sharp.

The Secretary also submitted a letter from Mr. E. W. Muirhead, of Mandeville, written from New York on the subject.

After consideration of the views presented, and discussion on the subject, the committee considered the same points as were submitted to the Orange Conference on 3rd November, 1905, except Nos. 1 and 2, which deal with trade marks, and which were already met by the Trade Marks Law, instituted since.

The committee recommended :—

(a) That it is desirable to prohibit the export of immature, juiceless, and improperly packed fruit. (b) That inspection is the only feasible way of checking, if not entirely preventing this. (c) That inspection should be made at a point (1) packing house, (2) in transit, (3) at shipping port, wherever an inspector could carry it through with least delay and most effect, the principle being to establish a wholesome uncertainty as to where the inspector might appear. (d) That as the preservation of the orange industry is for the public welfare, the expenses of inspection should be met by general revenue.

The Secretary was *instructed to forward the report to the Government* with the recommendation of the Board.

(d) Foot and Mouth Disease. The Secretary submitted a report as follows :—

As far back as December, a mouth trouble was common among horses in Kingston, and in occasional places throughout the island. It was diagnosed and treated by Mr Tavares, Veterinary Surgeon, as enzootic stomatitis, and stated by him not to be dangerous although troublesome at the time to the stock *affected. It was got under by ordinary* veterinary treatment, the specific used being chlorate of potash.

On Monday, 15th *instant, Mr. T. M. Gray, of Platfield, informed me* that when he returned to that property after an absence of three months, he had found some of his horsekind, especially mules, suffering from a disease of the mouth and hoofs, and serious loss amongst mules had occurred. We arranged for Mr. Tavares to go to his place and make an inspection, which was done, and I sent Mr. Tavares' report to the Governor. The Governor asked me to accompany Mr. Tavares and make a report to him. Mr. Tavares found that this disease was not simple enzootic stomatitis, which was not infectious and contagious, for this peculiar *trouble was both, and there were similar pustular eruptions* that were prominent symptoms in the real foot and mouth disease, now occurring in certain parts of the United States, and for which these States are under quarantine.

Mr. Gray has tackled the disease and established a quarantine pasture, and Mr. Tavares had also given him a course of treatment to pursue, and their efforts, apparently so far, had been successful, that no more deaths were occurring although the animals, when I saw them, had still ulcerated muzzles, tongues, and hoofs. Other cases of a like nature were found in Richmond and at Annatto Bay, but early treatment was given them.

Mr. Taveres returned to St. Mary and found after another inspection, that cattle had not been attacked, so he was of opinion that although this *disease amongst horsekind was dangerous on account* of its contagious and infectious nature, it was not apparently the foot and mouth disease that attacked cattle.

I have been receiving telegrams from all parts of the island, some of which are tabled here reporting suspicious cases of mouth disease. I re-

plied to these, making as plain as I could, the difference between the mild trouble "enzootic stomatitis," and the more serious trouble that has occurred at Richmond. So far as I know, there are no cases outside of St. Mary.

This disease has brought prominently forward the necessity of our having in force a Contagious Diseases Animals Law, as so long urged by this Society. A draft of a suitable law was submitted to the Government in February, 1906, and re-submitted twice since then.—JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

It was decided that the attention of the Government be called to the prohibition against fodder from the United States now in force, and that as corn and oats were admitted, to ask the Government to get professional advice whether there was any danger of foot and mouth disease being imported through these grains.

Importation of Stallion. Mr. Fursdon said he had noticed that in spite of the prohibition of the Government against stock from the United States, owing to foot and mouth disease there, a thoroughbred stallion had been allowed to be landed in the island. He would ask on whose authority this had been done.

The Secretary said that the horse had been imported from a non-infected State, Kentucky, through a misapprehension that the prohibition did not apply to the whole of the United States, and it was through his representations that the Government had allowed the animal to be landed, after he had undertaken to have the colt disinfected on board the steamer, lodged in strict quarantine in the office stables for two weeks, where there was a watchman, and afterwards to have the office stables and yard disinfected, all at the expense of Mr. Stanley Delisser, the importer.

He submitted the following copy letter sent from the Colonial Secretary's Office in this connection :—

Capt. W. P. Forwood, No. 3742, March, 1909.

Sir,—With reference to the order of the Governor in Privy Council, published in the *Jamaica Gazette* of the 28th January last, prohibiting as from the 6th February, the landing of animals, fodder and litter from the United States of America, I am directed by His Excellency to point out that a thoroughbred stallion from the State of Kentucky, consigned to Mr. Stanley Delisser, arrived at Kingston by the *Prinz Joachim* on the 18th instant. Mr. Delisser assured the Government that when he arranged to import the animal, he was not aware of the issue of the prohibition order, and, in order to save inconvenience to him it was allowed to be admitted, under certain strict quarantine restrictions. I am, however, to warn your company, who permitted the animal to be conveyed in one of your steamers, that the indulgence shown in this instance is not likely to be repeated.

2. I am to add that the British Ambassador at Washington was duly informed of the Order in Council, and that it is presumed that the information was duly made public in New York, in addition to the publicity given to it in Jamaica in January last.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant, (Sd.) ROBERT JOHNSTONE, Asst. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary further said that the horse had been on the ship for over five days, which was over the incubation period for foot and mouth disease, and that the Veterinary Inspector declared the animal to be perfectly healthy.

The Board, however, asked the Secretary to point out to the Government that they regretted to know that a horse had been allowed to be landed in the island in the face of the prohibition against stock from the United States.

After further discussion, Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Fursdon, that—"The attention of the Government be again called to the urgent necessity there is for appointing a qualified Veterinary Surgeon in connection with the efficient carrying through of the proposed Contagious Diseases Animals Law.

The Secretary was instructed to send this to the Government on the same day as the matter was then being discussed in the Legislative Council.

Jippi Jappa Hats. The following letter from the Colonial Secretary's Office was submitted :—

No. 2,517, Colonial Secretary's Office, March, 1909.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and to say that His Excellency will be glad if you will be so good as to procure and forward the samples of straw, of which "Panama" hats are made, which are asked for by Mr. Barclay.

2. Any expense to which you may be put in the matter, will be gladly refunded by this Government.—I have, etc., (Sd.) LOUIS J. BERTRAM, Actg. Colonial Secretary.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Guayaquil.

The Secretary stated that some stagnation had existed in the hat trade abroad, but this among other causes, was partly through the makers here adhering to one style of hat. He was now forwarding to Branch Societies, under whose auspices hat classes were established, samples of new styles which were quite within their power to make.

Cotton. The following letter from the Colonial Secretary's Office was submitted :—

No. 2,652/S.S./55/09. Colonial Secretary's Office, March, 15, 1909.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, a copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, No. 55, dated 18th February, 1909, enclosing copy of a letter from the British Cotton Growing Association, with regard to the variety of cotton most suitable for cultivation in Jamaica.—I have, etc. (Sd.) ROBERT JOHNSTONE, Asst. Colonial Secretary.

* * *

No. 55 Downing Street, 18th Feb., 1909.

Sir,—With reference to your despatch, No. 523 of the 11th November, I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information and for such action as you may consider desirable in the interests of the colony, the enclosed copy of a letter from the British Cotton Growing Association, with regard to the variety of cotton most suitable for cultivation in Jamaica.—I have, etc. (Sd.) CREWE.

(Enclosure to despatch No. 55 of 18th Feb., 1909).

The British Cotton Growing Association,
15 Cross St. Manchester, Jany. 27th, 1909.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, London, S.W.

Sir,—At a meeting of the West Indies Committee of this Association held yesterday, there was a considerable discussion as to the quality of

Jamaica cotton, and it was pointed out by Mr. Wolstenholme, that, generally speaking, the Sea Island cotton grown in Jamaica had not been very successful.

2. It was suggested that possibly Egyptian cotton of the Abassi or Nitafafi type, or even Joanavitch, might succeed better than Sea Island, and possibly also, some of the longer staple America cottons might also be successful, such as Sunflower, Allen's Improved, and other improved upland varieties of cotton.

I shall be much obliged if you will submit the whole question to the Expert Committte, which I presume has now been appointed.—I am, etc. (Sd.) J. ARTHUR HUTTON, Chairman.

The Secretary read the following letter from the British Cotton Growing Association :—

Dear Sir,—I am sorry to see from the Jamaica papers of January 29th, that the experience of planters with cotton growing in Jamaica, has been so unsatisfactory, and I think, therefore, it is all the more creditable to your Society that you have decided to vote the sum of £10 for further experiments in cotton growing.

I have brought the matter before my Council, and in order to show their appreciation of what is being done, they have decided to make a donation to your Society of £15, in order to supplement your own grant for cotton experimental work. I accordingly enclose draft herewith for that amount.—Yours faithfully, J. ARTHUR HUTTON, Chairman.

He also submitted a letter from Mr. Williams :—

The British Cotton Growing Association write me that they have made a grant of £15 to supplement the £10 we agreed to spend on cotton experiments. This is good of them and should enable us to make fairly satisfactory experiments. Was the £10 for cotton experiment included in the estimates ? We cannot accept the Cotton Growers' grant without it, for the grant was made on the strength of our having voted the £10. I hope it will be put through as we decided. We will look foolish if we have to return their money. Will you see soon about drafting a scheme for these experiments for the Committee's approval ? Some of the money must be used in importing seeds, and we should make our arrangements in good time.

The Secretary said he had put no special allocation on the estimates for cotton, because that was a Board of Agriculture matter, and it would have been taken from the £100 if that amount that was to the credit of the Board of Agriculture had been transferred to the Agricultural Society. However, the Society could see their way to take the £10 from their own funds.

It was, therefore, resolved to allocate the £10 for cotton experiments.

Foul Brood. The Secretary submitted a letter from Mr. R. S. Gamble, Kingston, stating that it would be an advisable thing for the Government to issue a declaration that the island was free from "foul brood" amongst bees, in connection with our shipments of honey.

The Secretary stated that he had written some of the largest and most experienced beekeepers in the island, and he had their positive statements that no such disease as "foul brood" existed within their experience or recollection. (All the letters in this connection are published in the body of the JOURNAL.)

BRANCH SOCIETIES.

THE following from the *Journal of Agriculture*, South Australia, shows that in other parts of the world agriculturists are striving in the same way as we are here, and there is some good advice in what is said :—

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU WORK.—Mr. R. H. Palmer read a paper on this subject to the following effect :—Practical agriculture is becoming more and more a science, and the man who is content to jog along in the good old way will soon find that he has been left behind by the more up-to-date and progressive cultivator. Looking at other countries beside our own, and studying the manners and methods studied by progressive agriculturists, we find there never has been such a time as at present of research and experimenting, and of anxiety to wrest from Dame Nature her secrets about soils, plant-food, fertilizers, etc. What seemed to him deplorable was that the farming community of this State was not properly organized ; every man seems to stand apart from his neighbour. Other trades and callings have their unions and organizations, and why should not farmers be better organized ? At present they stand practically alone, and consequently, as a body, they cannot exert the necessary influence on public opinion. Union is power, and the common interests of the farmers demands it. If such unionism existed among wheat-growers, would there then be to-day that vexed question of the standard bushel of wheat ? Or would the farmer have to accept the price fixed by the merchant for his wheat ? Assuredly not ; for the farmer would have a voice in fixing the standard and the price. He would like to see the Agricultural Bureau become that force, that power, in the land, which would sweep away the disadvantages and the injustice which prevail to-day. To effect this the Branches must be made popular and the meetings interesting and instructive. Their object ought to be to create and encourage interest in agriculture in its various forms, and to spread useful knowledge among the producers—in short, the Agricultural Bureau should be a mutual improvement society. It should be the means of furnishing to the young generation of farmers an education to fit them for their work, and be the voice of the country in all questions touching the well-being of the producer. There are existing to-day a large number of Branches, and each Branch is supposed to hold a meeting every month ; but a considerable number of them hold but few meetings during the year. Then, again, the attendance at the meetings is deplorable. Even this Branch has a difficulty in keeping up the membership to fifteen, whereas in such a district it should be thirty or forty. Scanning the reports of Branches for the past year or two, there seems to be a lack of real interest, a want of go and determination, and an absence of responsibility which promises a speedy and unnatural death to many of the Branches. The reason is not far to seek : analyze the list of members, and you will place them under one of these heads—1. The working member who attends regularly and does his best to make the meetings interesting and help things along ; 2, the shy member who has an enormous amount of information stored away under his hat, but is too shy to give utterance to it ; and, 3, we have the indifferent or lazy member who fails to take interest in the meetings. To make the meetings a success and to maintain interest requires united as well as individual effort. Every member must recognize he is a part of the machine. It is not an easy matter for a few, month after month, to fill up the programme, and it is not fair. All should help, and all can help. There are some members who say it is beyond them to get up a paper or give an address ; but meet them in the field, and you will find that they have a store of useful information, and yet when their turn comes, they will not come forward. There are numbers amongst us who have had

years of experience at farming, and whose experiences are worth relating, but they are very shy. Then. again, we have men brimming over with ideas of how things ought to be done. Well, let those men bring forward their ideas. It is desirable that they be made known and their practicability discussed. Then, again, we have the handy man on a farm who has a knack of making contrivances that save time, labour and money. Let him bring those to our meetings; in fact, anything and everything that will make the meetings instructive. Let every member bring anything that may have arrested his attention during the month, such as plants, grubs, weeds, tools, labour-saving appliances, etc. Let him speak at least once on every subject introduced for discussion, and bring a visitor who may be interested, and perhaps become a member. Why should not the Branch possess a small library of works on farming, manures, treatment of stock, and other useful subjects? This could be accomplished by a small donation, wherewith two or three books could be purchased every year. The books could be loaned out to members for a month at a time. Further, every member should conduct experimental work on his farm. By these means he can discover the wheats most suitable for his farm, and also the different varieties pure. Members must be on the look-out for matters of interest appearing in the papers, and bring newspaper clippings to the meetings; others may not have read them. *A good discussion ensued. . . . . . Regret was expressed* at the lack of interest in Bureau work, and it was thought that it would be to the advantage of the farmers if they were to unite. The plan of carrying on experimental work at home was a good one.

HATS AND BOOTS.

No wonder the island is poor in cash when so very much money is sent out of it every year to buy many articles of food and clothing which could be produced here to advantage. Many articles that we use we cannot hope ever to produce or manufacture with economy, and if we must have them we must buy them from abroad; but there are many things quite within the power of the people in the island to produce or manufacture, which hitherto through lack of foresight, lack of combination, lack of enterprise, lack of determination, or lack of application, and also lack of real patriotism—the patriotism that will work and sacrifice if necessary—not the talking kind—have hardly ever been considered. It has been nobody's business to bring such subjects to the notice of people in a practical way—for merely alluding to such matters in a letter to the newspapers, or in a speech, is not enough to arouse interest and stir consciences permanently, and stimulate steady, continuous efforts. There are plenty of drawbacks we know, in the way of putting the desire to do a thing into practice, but one of the great purposes of local Agricultural Societies we have had in view, is having organisations through which we can approach the people and put such matters before them and get them discussed continually, until some practical action is taken, which we are confident will result in time. But the parent organization of the Jamaica Agricultural Society has had very much to contend with through lack of means—both money and men, to keep such matters stirring.

If we are in a better position in the future, we can make it a duty to get at least two home industries worked on practical lines

throughout the island, which will result in the saving of much money to the island without anybody sacrificing comfort or style in their head-dress or their foot-covering.

At local shows we have seen many nice boots and shoes exhibited, made by local makers. We know good workmen are few and far between, but the fact that some men can do good handiwork, shows that it is not impossible nor improbable, to make good tradesmen. We lack that means of the proper and thorough training of tradesmen,—a system of apprenticeship. *It is this system of apprenticeship* that has secured the good workmanship which has made "British made" a standard of excellence throughout the world. In Scotland and England a man cannot set up as bootmaker, an engineer, *or anything else, without having served a long apprenticeship. After that there is a second stage, a period of probation* called in Scotland, and we believe also in the north of England, "journeymanship." The period of apprenticeship varies from a minimum of four years to about seven years. After serving his apprenticeship a boy is considered to be not quite able to do a man's work, but very nearly so, and he is called a "journeyman" or a "halflin," otherwise a "halfman." The period of probation of a journeyman is generally three or four years; by the end of that time he is well grounded, and if not a good workman at his trade is unable to get on further. If a good workman he can then be a master for himself.

However, in spite of the lack of such a good system of training here, there are many who take up the trade in the right way, that is through having the notion of it, and these apply themselves to learn and become good workmen through having the natural aptitude and having the desire to be successful at their trade.

Now we import into this island a total value of boots and shoes amounting to £94,167, which is a great sum. All of this could not be saved because there are many fancy styles of boots and shoes that we might not be able to make to compete with machinery, but for solid everyday boots and shoes we have seen boots made here which are as neat and serviceable as we can require.

The making of boots involves the making of leather. We have the hides and we have the tanneries, and the tanning materials in many forms,—and we understand that in St. Ann very little imported leather is used, but mostly native leather. Other cattle-rearing parishes could have tanning or leather-making establishments, and so make native leather from hides bought locally at a higher price than what would be received if they were exported. We export hides and *we export tanning matter in the form of divi-divi, mangrove* bark; even pimento is used to dress leather. Then if everybody, especially in the country parts, ordered their working boots from local workmen, wherever there were good tradesmen, we might keep many thousands of pounds in the island. If good workmen were trained here, then fathers could apprentice sons under an agreement, with men noted for their workmanship, and in time we would have good workmen at good centres throughout the island.

As regards hats, years ago we considered that if in northern countries girls could employ their spare time in making articles of clothing to keep people warm in winter, girls here on the other hand, could make articles of headwear to help keep our heads cool,—in other words jippi jappa hats. All through the island now classes have been formed, and girls are learning the art of making these hats, and there may soon be a very large quantity made all over, instead of in one district only. At present there is as there has always been a demand for these hats, but the demand as with other things, fluctuates, and unfortunately hats have been so treated here, that hat-establishments abroad could not use them. Then nice hats can be made from cocoanut leaves, and even from dried plantain bark. A cocoanut leaf hat exhibited at Bath Show, was really neat and attractive. However, when we think that there are £34,429 worth of hats imported into the island, there is quite room for a large local trade in these hats. As they become easy to get more people will wear them, and we wish to ask readers of the JOURNAL to make it a point to wear jippi jappa hats.

In spite of occasional dulness in the hat trade, if we were assured of getting *bona fide* hats of good quality at a fair price (and we know what is a fair price), we could, we think, find outlet for thousands of dozens; but this trade suffers like others from lack of organisation, and so lack of uniformity in styles, shapes, finish and quality generally. They are not made in many different styles yet, but it would be quite easy to have them made in a good many different ways, and there is as much room for the millinery art in these hats as with any other kind of hats.

The cold figures show that we import in hats and boots over £128,000 value per annum. If we could save a quarter of this only, why, an amount like £32,000 is more than the value of many of our island exports.

COCOA TREES AND GRUBS.

I WISH to receive regularly the Society JOURNAL, and shall be glad to forward the necessary subscription if you will say how much it amounts to.

Just recently my eyes have been opened to the serious nature of the attack upon cocoa trees by the fiddler larvae. I find that in many cases fully 10 o/o of the trees are attacked. Not all seem to die at once, but apparently if measures are not taken to cope with the evil, a large amount of the cultivation in this district will be killed out. Few of the proprietors seem to know what causes the death of the trees, although some of them cut back the trees and apply lime to the roots when the trees begin to turn yellow and die back. I think the attention of planters and small cultivators should be called to the serious nature of the trouble and remedies suggested. I have tried the application of carbon bi-sulphide, but it has no effect whatever upon the larvae. I have heard that one property

ground a short distance away from the tap root. Possibly this may drive out the larvae?

During the first two weeks, I have had two men carefully searching the roots of the trees which appear to be attacked, and in every case where the trees showed signs of die-back, even if very slightly, and yellowing of the leaves, we found several of the fiddler larvae, and the tap roots or rather the neck of the tree about 4 to 12 inches below the ground partly eaten round. Fully 200 trees have been treated. After the grubs have been removed, fine white lime is dusted over the exposed roots and round the neck of the tree and then covered with soil.

I do not know if this method is the best, but at any rate, no further trouble will be caused by the larvae which have been removed, for of course they are destroyed.

I shall be glad if you can make any suggestion as to the best method of dealing with the trouble, because the method at present adopted by me is of course very expensive. I also think attention should be directed to the matter in your JOURNAL, as I know several fairly large owners whose trees are attacked but who treat the matter as if of no importance.

* * *

The fiddler grub attacks the cocoa trees just below the first lateral roots as a rule but sometimes just above, and if not dealt with in time, eats off the bark completely round, when the tree dies.

I notice that, speaking generally, the trees which are attacked most are in land which has been recently forked (about six or eight months ago) and I think the forking has been done too closely to the stem of the tree which has allowed the fiddlers to enter the ground. Also last year was a trying time for cocoa trees on account of the drought and probably they were less able to resist the attacks of the grubs.

The grubs do not seem to attack the lateral roots but only the main tap-root.—CORRESPONDENT IN ST. MARY.

* * *

THE attacks of the larvae of the fiddler beetle on cocoa trees, have only become noticeable during the last few years, but they are exactly the same in effect, as orange trees suffered from so severely eight years ago, when whole groves of orange trees died out, and in many groves they only saved their trees after a big fight. But we hear nothing of these grubs doing harm to orange trees now. Why should this be so? It looks as if the measures taken, through experience in the culture of oranges, have been successful. These measures were to open up the necks of the trees and leave them open and drain the land. Most groves had not a single trench before. In nearly all cases where the fiddler beetle had done damage to orange trees, they had been set too deeply. In some cases where orange trees were planted on hillsides, the earth was scraped away, and where this could not be done the trees were kept open at the

neck, and drains dug right through the grove so that no water could collect.

Deep planting of trees is a source of many troubles, and it will be found that a large proportion of the cocoa trees in Jamaica have been planted with their necks well below the surface of the soil; or, since they have been planted, by the throwing up of the earth from trenches or forking operations, or where the cocoa trees are on hillsides, through wash from above, the necks of many are several inches deep in earth.

We recommend the idea of opening up the necks of the trees and dusting in lime.

We have sent samples of a preparation called 'Apterite' to some cocoa growers for trial in killing these grubs. It is used by working into the ground around the trees.

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REMEDY FOR GRUBS AT COCOA ROOTS.

WE have received samples of a proprietary article called "Aptrite," which we have before mentioned in the JOURNAL. It is used for destroying insect pests in the soil and may possibly be found useful for grubs at the roots of cocoa. At any rate, we have sent some out to cocoa growers for trial. The makers have the following to say about it:—

It should be dug or ploughed into the soil at a depth of seven to nine inches, having been previously spread over the surface in the proportion of one pound to every six square yards of soil. We *prefer that it should be tried on one or two representative* plantations, the worst that you can possibly find, and that it should be used at this strength, and also a little weaker and a little stronger, and then the results should be studied in comparison with the trees that are not treated.

Of course the fairest way would be to take a block of trees together, so that there should not be any migration of grubs from the ground not treated in the plantation.

Apterite is perfectly harmless both to the men using it and the trees, it is very easily applied and should of course be used at a time when the grubs are in the most sensitive condition. It is also a good fertilizer, and we believe it is the best soil fumigant yet produced. It should be kept air-tight, otherwise it greatly loses its effectiveness.

You will speedily satisfy yourself what it is capable of doing if you take a few grubs and mix them in some soil with Apterite and put them in a box.—[We have more of this for trial.—ED.]

HORSE CLASSES AT SHOWS.

THERE are certain blemishes in both stallions and mares which should not be a disqualification for the purpose of *breeding*; neither would they necessarily disqualify for show purposes. Of course if

seriousness of the blemish. For instance, such as blemishes from contact with *wire fence*, or an *enlarged point* from an accident when young, or any other blemish of a similar kind from a similar cause.

Brushing, speedy cut, overreaching (hammer and click) broken knees, and similar blemishes can not be properly said to be *hereditary*, in the strictest sense of the term—these faults (with the exception of broken knees, which may be the result of an accident pure and simple), are more or less the result of faulty conformation, and the progeny of such animals would be strongly disposed to the same faults. One often sees mares that have brushed badly all their lives, and which have badly broken knees as a result, used as brood mares, and as often as not, mated with stallions with a similar conformation. Such mares should only be used to breed mules, or very carefully mated with stallions with the reverse conformation—although it is neither wise nor safe to mate animals with a *too* strong reverse conformation. It is not so easy to detect these faults in stallions, because as a rule, they do neither hard nor fast work, and therefore do not brush, speedy-cut nor have broken knees. But their general conformation and action will generally give a fair indication as to whether they would be guilty of such faults if put to the test. This is why it is necessary for stallions to be so trained as to trot readily and show their best paces and action in the show ring. At a recent show a well-bred horse having a fair amount of quality, lost a prize because he utterly refused to trot or show any paces whatever. We shall ever have brushing and broken-kneed horses until horse-breeders and horse-judges give more attention to the legs and feet of the animals they are dealing with, and a little less attention to pace and what may be called a "toppy" appearance.

It is somewhat difficult to give a list of hereditary blemishes, as distinct from those which may not be hereditary, yet would strongly dispose the progeny to the same. However, in my opinion, I give the following as at any rate some of the most important :—

Hereditary Blemishes.—Ring-bones, side-bones, spavins,—bog, blood, bone, and occult,—sand-crack.

Not hereditary, but strongly dispose progeny to the same. Brushing, speedy-cut, hammer and click ; too wide action especially behind, long drooping pasterns, narrow chest.

I do not suppose the above list is complete, and perhaps not correct according to some opinions, but in actual practice that it is fairly so I think will be admitted.—E. Arnett.

AVOID HEREDITAY UNSOUNDNESS.

The weak point with many owners who are small or occasional breeders of horses, is that they are not particular enough about the soundness of their mares. A good many pay very little attention to the soundness of the sire, and are satisfied if he could gallop

in his day, is fat and sleek of coat, and is, above all, cheap; but some are a little more particular about the horse, and unreasonably expect him to correct the obvious faults and blemishes of their old or unworkable mare.

There are many of this type of breeder and kind of mare in this country. Sometimes the use of such animals is due to ignorance, but more frequently to carelessness or recklessness. It is hoped that the offspring will not develop the unsoundness of the mare, or that the colt may be disposed of before it becomes apparent. To such men, of course, the well-being of the equine race, or the credit of the country do not appeal, and for these it is a great pity that Nature did not provide for hereditary unsoundness being congenitally manifested.

We have considerable faith in the axiom, proved over and over again, that like will produce like, and though there may for some time appear nothing wrong, the weakness exists, and the disease is developed as soon as the exciting cause comes into operation.

"There are," says an authority, "certain blemishes that are well known to be hereditary. Take spavins and ring-bones,—they are well known to be hereditary troubles. I am willing to admit that a horse may be spavined as the result of an accident, but I have no hesitation in saying that by far the largest proportion of spavined horses are simply suffering from these blemishes because it runs in the breeding. Probably most of their ancestors before them were spavined. It is transmitted from parent to progeny almost always, and we ought to see that our brood mares are free from spavins and ringbone."

We could, of course, add largely to this list of hereditary unsoundnesses, the consideration of which is of great importance.

GOATS.

Goats are very largely bred in Jamaica, and we do not know an more useful animals when they are kept in the proper place. The muttoi is the favourite flesh meat amongst the poor people, but is also used b all classes, and sells at the same price as good beef. The little milk tha they give is most useful for young children, and in so many places, de spite the numbers of cows kept on pens, and despite the number of ewe kept by small settlers, little or no milk can be had over six months of th year in many country districts. All the cows drop very much in the sam period of the year in certain districts, but even in the months when youn calves are running with the cows, and when milk ought to be plentiful there is no organised trade in many parts, and so poor people are boun to depend upon the handy goats. Hence our efforts to improve the mil supply by introducing the long-called for milch breeds. Then goats ar exceedingly useful for their skins which fetch a good price. In Trelaw ney, where there are some large flocks of goats kept on the poorer land there, and where there are sugar estates on the more fertile soils close by these flocks are penned in order to save the manure, which is bought b the sugar estates. Thus there are four good commercial qualities abou the goat. There is still another—their prolificacy—a flock increases ver

)out the streets of towns or tied along the roadside picking up a pre- ırious living, that they are very hardy animals and not subject to dis- ıse at all. They are hardy if they get the chance,—but it is because ıey are considered proof against disease that often the treatment con- dered necessary for other stock is not given to them.

On a large scale goat breeding should be conducted on the same lines ; cattle breeding, with sub-divided pastures and proper paddocks, the ifferent sexes kept apart, and so on. The great blunder made is in this ıct often forgotten, that fencing for goats is a most expensive business, ıat all the sub-divisions mean a large amount of capital. The neglect f the separation of different grades and sexes, means close in-breeding, asual breeding, and stunted stock in the course of time. Then again, where flocks of goats are kept, they are brought into a pen at night, not nly for the sake of their manure which can be profitably sold, but for afety against thieves,—and these pens soon become deep in the goat roppings. Where the manure can be sold, the pens are cleaned out oc- asionally, but after they are cleared out, the goats are immediately urned in again, and the stench of ammonia arising from the urine-soaked ground, is a regular 'knock-you-over.' There should be a number of suc- cessive pens to put the goats in so as to be used in succession and have them clean. Where the manure is not sold, we have known places where it was four feet deep, and on the top a seething mass of lice. Now goats are subject to lice, and this penning in dirty pens is one cause of their not thriving. All this kind of mal-treatment breeds all sorts of parasites externally and internally. Even where they are intelligently kept, when- ever you begin to crowd goats there is trouble. They are distinctly ani- mals requiring a wide range, as they are not grazers to any extent, but nibblers, and, notwithstanding appearances, they are one of the most cleanly animals existing,—soiled feeding or feeding that goats have al- ready gone over, they will not touch unless through the compulsion of starvation. It will thus be seen that goat-breeding is not so simple as it may appear, and that it presents just as many problems as the breed- ing of any other stock. A great advantage of them is that they can run on very poor or rocky soil and make a living.

As regards Mr. England's remarks below about publishing what we have to say about goats,—we have already published articles on goats in the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL over and over again, but they have been fugitive articles, and as we think there is demand for such we shall try to collect all the notes together and publish the information therein con- tained in a small pamphlet, as we have done in the poultry industry.

Local Agricultural Societies are within the reach of anybody inter- ested in agriculture for the sum of 1/ per annum, and there are no people so poor as not to afford that. If a man loses one goat it costs consider- ably more than 1/, and for that 1/ he gets a copy of the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL worth 3d. a month free, and if they are not alive to all these ad- vantages it is through sheer indifference.

There used to be a local Society in Falmouth, but there was no great interest taken in it, and it dropped through sheer inanition after holding two shows. There are just as many questions in lower Trelawney need- ing the benefit of local agricultural organisation as anywhere else, but we are sorry our efforts hitherto have not been able to make this fact ap- preciated.

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I would be extremely obliged for your advice on the following:—I am a young penkeeper, and have about 260 goats, among them 16 by one of the imported rams. But I have had some trouble with "scours," not so much among the young kids, as among those dropped in October, 1908. I would be so glad if you would let me know what is a remedy.

But what has given me considerable concern, is the death of three young wethers (quite suddenly) a week ago, and one on the 25th, another [illegible] the symptoms in each case were

apparently the same. My headman opened two and he found that the bladder was nearly full of urine of a reddish colour, and several *worms*, about three inches long, in the intestines; these worms were of a whitish colour. The kids were about four months old in each case. Would you kindly suggest a remedy?—STANLEY L. ENGLAND, Orange Grove, Falmouth, 27th January, 1909.

1. Attacks of scours or diarrhoea, occur most generally in young goats just weaned, and which eat heartily of young grass, especially guinea grass, or shoots of herbs.

2. The worms are probably a variety of strongyli. Cattle, sheep and goats, especially those which drink from ponds, very often suffer from this kind of worm—*strongylus filaria*, in the bronchial tubes, (commonly called lung worms), *strongylus contortus* in the stomach and intestines, besides the common intestinal worms which animals of all kinds suffer from. It would be difficult to treat all your stock, as you have so many, with the most effective specific, and we can only suggest your providing rock salt in quantity for the stock to lick, while those you may see ill and thin and not thriving, you could treat with one dessertspoonful of turpentine, one tablespoonful of castor oil, one tablespoonful of fish oil, given in one dose as a drench. This is the dose for half-grown kids, and a half more of eachfor grown goats. Give once a week until condition improves. [This is a good all round remedy for scours, and internal parasites of all kinds.]

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I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter in answer to mine, advising me how to deal with "scours" in my goats; and to thank you for the excellent advice you gave. I tried the remedy suggested, and it proved a real saviour to the goats. Not alone did it check the rapidly-increasing disease among the animals, but I discovered hundreds of dead worms among the droppings. Mr. —— informed me that his goats suffered in the same way as mine, and I handed him your letter; he tried the remedy suggested, and informed me that he also discovered that his goats passed a great many worms after taking the medicine, and that they also benefited—the unfortunate part in his case being that the advice was a bit late, and I think he lost the majority of his flock from scours and worms.

The extraordinary weather we have had in Trelawney had been a severe set-back to goats, especially in this district, and a good many died through this cause. I happened to be in a position to get your advice, but there must have been dozens of poor people here who lost their goats, and went tinkering with them, but who did not know where to look to for wholesome advice. Through their unfortunate position in life, the Agricultural Society is not accessible to them. I think it would be an excellent thing if the advice you gave me could be pnblished—and I do not think I am going too far when I suggest that placards (like those that were used in the cases of "vomiting sickness," be used for this purpose, all this in deference to your opinion.

I would be so glad if you would help me once more: I have just bought out Mr. —— Angoras, but the pure-bred billy he had died a few months ago, and he says he does not know where to advise me to get one. He got his from Mr. Gossett, and I think the first one he had was imported by the Agricultural Society.

I have several young billies of the same lot, but as they will all be related to the ewes, I wish to avoid in-breeding; and I would be extremely obliged if you would inform me where I can get a young Angora billy from. I do not mind if he is very young. But I do not want one that is related to these. I would be willing to get even a half-bred or a cross-bred (so long as there is no relationship with mine), or to exchange one of my three-quarter-bred young billies. In fact I would be willing to do

ny business with any one having an Angora or half-Angora or three uarter-Angora billy, provided the animal is not related to mine.

If you cannot succeed in doing this for me, would you kindly let me now how much I could import such an animal for. I have five three-uarter young angora billies now for sale, in the very best order. I have roubled you in this matter, as I have no doubt you will receive enquiries t your "Bureau" from some one wishing to do just the opposite to what want to do, and may be able to help us both.

Apolgising for my long letter, and for the trouble I know I will give, ind thanking you very much.—STANLEY L. ENGLAND.

[Unfortunately, all the Angora goats or with Angora blood, in the is-and, are related. The Agricultural Society only imported one pair of oure-bred Angoras. The ram stood with Mr. Gossett and went on to Mr. Wales at Falmouth, where it died. You will have no difficulty in finding sale for your three-quarter bred Angora through this publicity, as they are much in demand.—ED.]

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Sir,—I have lost about 70 head of my goats, most under six months old, and many are still sick. The disease started in December and they started to die in January. They started by purging, and I treated as directed by JOURNAL of November last, and in nearly all the cases the purging would stop, but they continued to fall off condition, and after some weeks would die. When opened, there was only a very small amount of food in their stomachs, in some cases none at all. I fed many on oat-meal gruel, but it was of no use, they died all the same. The disease with me was different from that Mr. England had. He used the oil and turpentine and cured the cases he had. I this morning received a letter from a man that I had sold a kid to in December last, to say it was dead; and his idea of the cause of death is lice. He says the goats eat the lice and they eventually kill them. This I do not see but I might be wrong. Some time ago I had a lot of lice on mine but before I could get a tub and jeyes to dip them, I found they were again quite clean. I should be glad if you would give me your opinion as to the lice theory. My loss has been very great and I would like to find out the cause.—H. B., Montego Bay.

[Naturally if the animals were infested with strongyli, either of the respiratory organs or the digestive organs, or both, they would go off their feed, and you would therefore find little food in their stomachs. The strongyli are fine thread-like worms, and can not be easily seen with the naked eye, even when they are in the stomach in quantity. We think your goats had them in the lungs and the passages of the throat; did you hear the goats cough any?

There is nothing in the lice theory whatever so far as regards the beasts taking them internally, but there is a great deal in the lice suggestion externally. We have known a flock of goats sleeping in the same pen night after night, to be resting on a seething mass of lice, although they were never observed by the owner. The animals were simply eaten up at night, and yet there were very few lice on them during the day—ED.]

REPORT ON THE ST. ELIZABETH PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION, 1908-1909.

In company with Mr. J. T. Palache, the Agricultural Instructor for the district, I inspected and judged the holdings entered for the St. Elizabeth Prize Holdings Competition from the 1st to the 11th February, and now beg to submit my report for the information and consideration of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society as follows:—There were forty-three holdings entered for the competition,

fourteen in first class, sixteen in second class, and thirteen in third class. The itinerary was so arranged that the judging was carried through without difficulty, and with the least amount of time and travelling possible. There were not so many holdings entered for the present competition as there were in the previous one. The explanations offered are: The prolonged drought during the last two years, and the old enemy—the fear of increased taxes. There is no question that the drought was a great strain on the people, and especially on the better class of small settlers, who by years of industrious labour and steady, careful living, had succeeded in building suitable houses for the accommodation of their families, establishing good cultivations and gathering around them a fair amount of stock all of which together gave them a living, and enabled them to bring up their families in a respectable manner. Many of this class lost heavily by drought, in some cases losing several head of valuable stock for want of grass and water, others had to sacrifice them in order to provide the necessaries of life, their cultivatiou failing to supply the usual amount of foodstuffs on account of the drought. It was gratifying to see the determined way in which many had fought the difficulties, and had stood the strain, and to see the hopeful way in which they were endeavouring to restore what bad been lost and sacrificed, and the successful efforts being put forth to re-establish themselves in their former position. . . . . . .

Although the number of entries were not up to what one would expect or desire, yet the competition was an undoubted success. There was not a holding that had not made some effort to improve, and many had done a good deal of useful work contributing to the permanent good of the holding. In some instances, the work was still in progress, new houses being built, new cultivations being laid out, and line walls in course of erection. Some of these entered the competition though, as they said, they were not ready for a prize this time but were anxious for us to visit their place and give them advice, they were working for the next competition.

It was very satisfactory to note the efforts made on a number of the holdings to provide storage for water, but more attention ought to be given to the catchment. In several cases this was very inadequate and in other cases was so situated that much dirt was continually washing into the tank, and in one or two instances where there were good tanks and good catchments, the water from the pathway where everybody walked was allowed to run into the tank. There were several instances where there was a decided effort to restore holdings which had been neglected, and successful attempts were being made to reduce the coffee fields again to some sort of order. In several instances also new holdings were being established on new lines and from the start the permanent crops were being laid out at proper distances, etc.

I beg herewith to attach the schedule of marks gained by each competitor and a list of the prizes awarded :

Mr. James Laird, the winner of the first prize in the first class, deserves special commendation for having converted a most unpromising piece of land, in fact what appeared to be a mountain of rock, into a beantiful homestead and a complete little farm. Mr. Charles Robinson, the winner of the second prize, deserves great credit for the manner in which he cultivates and keeps his holding. Mr. Thomas Smith of Fraser, Newmarket, and Mr. Henry Foster of Prospect, Giddy Hall, tie for the fifth prize, and we would request that 5/- be added to the regular prize and an award of 10/- each be made. We also beg to recommend Mr. David Taylor Senior, of Compton, Newmarket, for a special prize of 4/- for well-kept catch crops under very difficult conditions and on very stony land.

In the second class we beg to recommend Mr. William Blake for a special prize of 4/- for special efforts to restore his cultivation on the

lines indicated by the Instructor, and also Alfred A. Martin, of Dry River, Magotty, a lad of 16 who is making strenuous efforts to restore the holdings of his late father to good cultivation, and also Charles Nembhard, of Williamsfield, as a new settler starting out on right lines, and establishing his cultivation according to improved methods in this class. Mr. Brodie, the winner of the fourth prize, has an exceedingly nice holding and well stocked with a fine assortment of stock, including ing a nice lot of sheep as well as the usual run of goats, pigs, horses, cows, etc.

In the third class Mr. Thomas Forbes, the winner of the first prize, is worthy of special commendation for having scored the highest number of marks in the whole competition. His holding is situated in the drought-stricken area, yet by the liberal use of manure from a fine lot of stock kept on the place, and the liberal use of other mulchings, he has established a beautiful little holding which stands there as the model and example to the district.

Mr. Robert Salmon of Malvern, and Mr. Richard Salmon of Giddy Hall, tie for the second prize, and we suggest that 5/- be added to the usual prize and that they be given 18/- each. We beg also to recommend Mr. Joseph Salmon of Rosebery, for a special prize of 4/- for a new settlement laid out according to approved methods.

We beg to offer our sincere thanks to the many who rendered such valuable help in making known the rules and conditions of the competition, and for the kind assistance given in so many ways at the time of the judging. Our special thanks are due to the Rev. John Maxwell for his timely help in guiding and conveying us around through the difficult and mountainous roads in his districts; without his help the judging would certainly have taken us days longer, and also for his great zeal in working up interest in this competition in his district and inducing so many to enter.—E. Arnett.

REPORT OF THE CLARENDON PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION FOR 1908-1909.

In company with Mr. J. Hirst, Instructor for the district, I inspected and judged the holdings entered for the Prize Holdings Compe tition for the parish of Clarendon from February 15th to March.

I beg herewith to submit the report for the information and consid eration of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Societ as follows:—

There were fifty-seven holdings entered for the competition, fourtee in the first class, eighteen in the second class, and twenty-five in th third class, a much smaller number than was entered for the previo competition. This is accounted for by the fact that at the first a numb entered without duly considering the conditions required. No encou agement was given to any one to enter this time unless they had in son way and to some extent complied with all the conditions, and hence t smaller number of entries. The result of adopting this course was se in two ways, first by the fact that there was not a single person w had entered that had not done a considerable amount of work large contributing to the permanent good of the holdings, especially fencin The question of fencing appears to be a much neglected one among t small settlers of this parish, at any rate, in the districts through whi I have recently travelled; and in the previous competition it was t exception rather than the rule for a competitor to have good fenc but the situation is now entirely reversed, there was not a holding e tered that had not done some fencing, and many had made most cred

able attempts. In one or two instances, exceedingly neat and good walls were in course of erection: others had entirely surrounded their holdings with barbed wire, and others had gone so far as to very neatly enclose the yard and otherwise subdivide the holding. Some had turned their attention to growing fences, one in particular had a strong and well-established "Rose Apple" fence around his holding.

I am of opinion that small settlers with a limited amount of land should not be encouraged to plant growing fences, except on very steep hillsides where they might serve a very useful purpose in helping to prevent land slides, and also prevent the washing away of the rich surface soil by the heavy rains, but as a general rule a growing fence takes up too much room on a small holding. Unless it is kept constantly trimmed, it soon overhangs and takes up a lot of space on each side, keeping out the sun, air and light needed by other plants; and if even kept closely trimmed the roots extend out several feet on each side and rob the plant food. Both in St. Andrew as well as in Clarendon I noticed growing fences that were serving a most useful purpose on steep hillsides, but on the other hand some persons were establishing growing fences where stones for building walls were abundant. Neatly kept growing fences look very nice, but in small vegetable gardens and on small holdings they are wasteful as they occupy too much space. The Instructor and those who have worked in the interests of the Holdings Competition in Clarendon are to be congratulated on the amount of improvement in the matter of fences. This is not intended to discourage the planting of suitable plants or trees at certain points around the line to serve as a permanent landmark.

Another result of enforcing the conditions of the competition was that many of the holdings were very even which made it a difficult matter to award the prizes, and one regrets that there were not more prizes available, as there were a number of holdings that really merited some consideration after all the available prizes had been awarded. The general formation of the land, the nature of the soil and the climatic conditions vary much in the different districts, and in some cases the change is very abrupt. It is interesting to note the entirely different methods of cultivation adopted by the people in each district, methods, no doubt, which experience has taught them are the best suited for the soil and climatic conditions of their own locality. But in all the districts visited they need to give more attention to drainage, trenching and deep cultivation generally. Whether it is in the comparatively dry districts of Rock, Richmond Park, Stewarton and James Hill where the red soil prevails, or in the more seasonable and fertile districts of Smithville, Nine Turns, Frankfield, Park Hall, etc., practically the same methods need to be adopted in each district, but for entirely different purposes.

The cultivations were clean and tidy and the general conditions in each case were good. Some of the holdings were extremely neat and clean and presented a very neat appearance with their strong, neat new gates. The houses were also very nicely kept, in one or two instances they were among the best I have seen in any parish. However, there is at least one point in which some improvement might be made in several of the houses in the Mocho district. At present they consist of only one room—often a good sized room and in every case extremely neat and clean, but there should be at least one division so as to make two separate apartments for the family.

The Smithville district seems to be a seasonable and very fertile one and the people are certainly alive to their own interest. If they do not get information it is certainly not for the want of asking, they apparently look upon the Instructor as a new edition of "enquire within for everything." It was quite refreshing to spend a day in this district and see the interest the people took in the competition and the enthusiasm

come across "foul brood." The apiaries that I inspect during my work show no signs of this disease.

My experience extend over a great area, which includes my own agricultural district and a large portion of St. Elizabeth where I had my apiaries. I think if foul brood had existed in the colony I should have heard of it unless it is a very recent importation.—Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) H. D. D. MENNELL, Agricultural Instructor, Darliston.

* * *

I have been requested by Mr. Hirst, Agricultural Instructor, to reply to a letter of the 1st instant *re* foul brood you sent to him.

I have several apiaries in different districts of this parish (Clarendon) some as high as Chapelton and others around Vere and as low as Parnassus estate.

I have been a beekeeper here for 10 years and I have never had or heard of a single case of foul brood. I have a lot of beekeeper friends and have never heard them mention foul brood, and am certain that not a single case exists in Clarendon.

We get a little paralysis now and then, but that is an entirely different thing and simply by re-queening from a different stock of bees is a cure.—(Sgd.) F. H. BUTCHER, Chapelton.

* * *

At no time have we ever had "foul brood" in our apiaries, and so far as this parish is concerned no such thing exists or has ever existed here.

We have no reason to believe either that there is foul brood in Jamaica.—(Sgd.) FORREST BROS., Black River.

* * *

I have received your memorandum of March 1st, and in answer, I beg to say I have no "foul brood" in my apiary, and have no knowledge of its existence in any other apiary.—(Sgd.) C. NOEL EDDOWES, Half-way Tree.

JUDGING OF RUM.

Rum is not an exhibit often seen at our agricultural shows, and when it has been exhibited the judging has been rather casual. Even at Sav.-la-Mar show, in the sugar parish of Westmoreland, there was never much competition until last show on 1st January of this year. Special arrangements had been made for efficient judging and as this was made widely known, there was a good display of exhibits. Samples were sent to the Government Laboratory and there tested by the Hon. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture and Government Chemist, who telegraphed the awards. He made the following interesting report, which has been delayed in publication :—

Eight samples were received at the laboratory under numbers only. They were tested for ethers and judged by the ordinary commercial method.

SHREWSBURY.

First.—(Exhibit 481). Ethers 340. Very attractive style—lasts well when broken down.

Third.—(Exhibit 493). Ethers 510. The stoutest rum sent in. Rather flat and coarse.

Fourth.—(Exhibit 342). Ethers 410. A fine home-trade rum spoilt by excess of cedarwood flavour.

Nos. 250, 346, 243, 492, below 250 parts of ether and not up to the others.

This report was sent by telegram owing to the inability of Mr. Cousins to attend the show as arranged.

OBSERVATIONS.

To judge eight Westmoreland rums without marks is by no means a light task. I appraised the rums from the point of view of a trade in genuine pure Jamaica rums, giving points for a high standard of ethers, an attractive fruity quality, and a lasting and pleasant tipe of residual smell when broken down with water.

The sample classed as third would probably have commanded a higher price than the others in former days, owing to its superior blending value.

I place it below the other two because it is coarse and lacking in the finer ethers of a first class Westmoreland rum.

The second prize rum is in some ways superior to the others, but it lacked intensity as shown by the moderate ether standard. I am inclined to think that a better sample of this mark could have been shown.

The fourth in order of merit was a splendid rum spoilt by excess of cedar flavour. Either the rum or the high wines must have been in contact with fresh cedar vats for a long time. I regarded this sample as in the running for the second prize, apart from this defect.

The other four samples were below a standard of 250 ethers. Three of them were excellent in style and in residual flavour, but lacked intensity as compared with the prize rums.

One sample only of the eight was really poor, and lacking in quality.

This lot of rums represented the highest quality of drinking rum for the English market that the world produces.

It is clean, pure, and yet possessed of ample flavour and a most attractive and lasting aroma.

It is most encouraging to the future of the sugar industry in Westmoreland, that the first prize should be gained by the first Westmoreland estate to go in for a steam-heated still with double retorts, and where a full modern vacuum plant is installed. Shrewsbury rum has improved very greatly since the old fire-heated still and the muscovado process were abandoned. The judge has been as much surprised as gratified at this result.

I greatly regret that I was not able to be present at the show.

H. H. COUSINS,

8th January, 1909. Director of Agriculture and Island Chemist.

HINTS ON REARING POULTRY.

HOUSING.

Fowls prefer to sleep on trees, but a house is better if it is not a closed one, but is open all round the front and sides, with its back only to the north for protection from night winds. Open wattling for sides do well in the country, or in town, wire mesh. When fowls roost on trees, they roost one above the other, and those above soil those below, the tree, also, soon gets soiled with droppings, the

fowls; when sickness breaks out the fowls cannot be caught easily to be treated, they cannot be counted easily, the heavy rains occasionally beat them and chill them and so check laying. When in a proper house, the fowls can be counted at night, have no trouble in getting a good roosting place, can be lifted easily in the evening to be treated for sickness when necessary, the droppings can be easily cleared out and taken for manuring the garden. Chickens should be kept at night in small coops like an inverted V with no bottom, shifted every day to a clean place. Close wire mesh at the ends, and board, or close wattles, at the sides of these coops, will keep the chickens safe at nights from rats. The first three days after hatching, the hen should be kept in one of these coops to prevent her travelling about beyond the strength of the very young chickens.

FATTENING.

A good many people say, even in the country, that it is cheaper to buy their fowls and eggs from the country people than raise fowls. It seldom is so in the end, but may be sometimes. Everybody has not the knack, the aptitude, or the patience to make a success of raising fowls. Although from a strictly debit and credit point of view in cash, fowls may not pay some, yet when a housewife knows that the eggs she uses are from clean and well-fed hens, and that her fowls are tender on table—well there is a good deal in that. The ordinary sixpenny chicken as it is called, bought in the market, seldom can make a good table fowl. I have nearly always found such to put corn in an ill skin, but a housewife seldom reckons up the value of food fed in this way.

Too often the fattening coop in the country is a dark, dirty box. Now comfort and good food to any animal is conducive to making flesh. The fattening coop should be kept clean, should be airy and have light. Fowls put up to fatten should not be fed on whole corn; the feeding for such is quite different from fowls for laying. Cornmeal with a pinch of salt made into a thick crumbly porridge—not sloppy—cocoanut, and any kind of soft kitchen scraps fed three or four times a day, just as much as the fowls will eat at a time, will make them fat in a fortnight. It is seldom a fowl can be kept so closely confined longer than two weeks—the limit is three weeks; after that they will sicken. Clean water should always be available.

COMMENTS.

COCOA.—War has at last been declared against slave-grown cocoa. The great firms of Cadbury Bros., Fry & Sons, and Rowntree & Co., together probably with some continental and American firms, have decided not to make any purchases of cocoa produced in the Islands of San Thome and Principe. These islands are Portuguese colonies, and are large producers of cocoa. Labourers are imported from the African coast under conditions which make the labourers practically slaves, as different as night is from day from our system

ment on one side, a watchful Jamaica Government on the other, and the tentacles of an Imperial Government feeling all around.

Defenders of the Portuguese system say that the cocoa trade cannot do without their San Thome cocoa, and that they will always get all the buyers they want. The other side insists that once the Portuguese see that the English makers are in earnest they will give way at once.

* * *

CORRESPONDENTS have been asking how Jamaica cocoa now compares with other cocoas. Has it been improving? Yes it has. The prices are a good indication, and in March these were as follows: *Trinidad*, superior 64/-, good middling 60/-, fine 53/-. *Grenada*, good 57/-, fair 54/-, ordinary unfermented 52/-. *Jamaica*, fair 51/-, good fermented 54/-, superior 60/-, which is as good as the best Grenada.

The remark on Jamaica estate cocoa was, that it was "mostly of dull fermented appearance—the ordinary quality of these West Indian kinds are more difficult to sell than the fine bright fermented cocoa."

We noticed at the show at Bog Walk that the estate cocoa, although apparently nicely fermented, was mostly dull and dark in appearance. It certainly looks more taking when bright and red. It was a red cocoa that got the highest award at the Crystal Palace Exhibition.

Guayaquil cocoa (and Guayaquil exports more than any other port) has been selling—for the best Ariba, 74/- to 75/-.

Ceylon.—Fine lots up to 81/-, good medium and bold 66/- to 74/-, good even bold 59/- to 61/-.

* * *

WE have received another lot of the book, "The Future of Cacao Planting" by Harold Hamel Smith, Editor of the paper *Tropical Life*. This book is well worth reading and studying, and costs 1/3 post free from this Office.

* * *

SCHOOL GARDENS.—The demand for the little book, "Suggestions for School Gardens," by Mr. J. R. Williams, M.A., Inspector of Schools, and a member of the Board of Management, has been good, but not enough, and we think that many practical agriculturists have got the idea that because of its title it is only meant for school teachers, and in a school-garden. As a matter of fact, it is a book which we can recommend to all agriculturists, no matter how experienced and practical they may consider themselves, and whether or not they ever attempt a garden to grow vegetables for themselves. It deals in a minute and practical way with the propagation of plants in nurseries,—how to prepare nurseries for cocoa, coffee, tobacco, oranges, etc.; how to plant the seedlings out in a

field, how to prepare the land, how to cultivate and prune, how to cure the product. It also deals with ginger, bananas, cotton, sarsaparilla, vanilla, guinea corn, peanuts, etc. Then there is a chapter, *a most important one, on friends and enemies of the garden and* field, and how to deal with the enemies. A list of insecticides and how to prepare them is also given. The articles have been carefully prepared and as carefully revised by those able to deal authoritatively with each subject.

It is our deliberate opinion that no one who has any dealings in agriculture can afford to do without this little book which only costs 1/- post free from this office.

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SUBSCRIPTION.—Members please note that the subscription to the Society for the financial year 1909-10 is now due.

* * *

JOURNALS.—The JOURNAL has been late in being issued every month since December when the printers' strike took place, but we hope to catch up in the month of May. Branch notes are often lengthy, and late in being sent in. Unless we receive them by the first of each month we cannot guarantee insertion, and by the next month those received are out of date.

* * *

SHOWS.—The first Agricultural Show of the St. Thomas-ye-Vale Society held at Bog Walk, on 15th April, was certainly the best organised and best regulated show that we have attended of all the country shows. It was not the largest country show, by any means, nor had it the greatest number of exhibits of many that we have been at, but even though it had not been a first show in the district, the exhibits of agricultural products would have been good. They can, of course, be much improved in number and quality. The stock exhibits also made a good show, but as we have said, the feature of the whole show was its thoroughness. The grounds at Bybrook, the property of Mr. R. L. Constantine, were conveniently situated on the Railway, but apart from this they are beautiful grounds, and from the entrance from the public road the way in was attractively decorated. There were more flags and bunting at this show than any we have been at, and the booths were all substantially and conveniently arranged.

The show was opened by His Excellency the Governor, who was introduced by the Hon. Geo. McGrath, the Custos of the Parish. The Branch Society presented a short address to which His Excellency replied.

There was a very good attendance, but for a show so conveniently situated and with special trains from Kingston and Spanish Town, we thought towns' people should have turned out better. The trains from St. Mary were much better patronised than the Kingston trains. The weather was glorious.

One special weakness at most shows is the lackadaisical way the police act; they are often of little use unless to be seen, and perhaps this does act beneficially. At Bog Walk show there were too few constables, but as several remarked, so greatly is the President—Mr. John McPhail—held in respect, that no policemen were required; it was sufficient that he was present.

We compliment the President, the Committee and the Instructor on the running of this show, and hope it will continue as an annual event.

* * *

FORESTS.—We have often written of the connection between the water supply and our woodlands. We have pointed out that our forests have not the close connection with our heavy seasons rains that they undoubtedly have with our local showers. The seasons rains are due to conditions elsewhere and travel to us, but there is no possible shadow of a doubt that their detrimental effects in the way of wash, erosion, and flood, are guarded against by wooded hills, and banks of streams shaded by trees, and knit together by their roots, while the beneficial effects of the rains are conserved by a canopy of vegetation shielding the earth on the hills and hillsides especially, breaking the heavy downpour, while the roots of the trees bind the earth together, yet keep it loose enough for water to percolate, but not wash.

On treeless hills there is erosion, gullying of the land, and landslides; the heavy rains run off in floods, carrying thousands of tons of soil with them, and shortly the land is dry again. But with trees, the water is retained, sinks in the earth, and filters through slowly to the channels of running streams.

Then the green canopies on hilltops draw down passing clouds as a magnet draws a needle. Wherever there is forest there will be rain, wherever there is a bare stretch (even though it was once forested and had then plenty of rain) there will be a lack of rain.

* * *

BULLS.—The roan shorthorn bull "Henbury Favourite," was sold by public auction at the stables of the Society, on Wednesday 7th April, at 12 o'clock, and after spirited bidding was sold to Mr. Geo. Solomon, jr., for Dr. White, for the sum of £40. We consider this bull better than a freshly imported one, as having been allowed to get run down by those who have kept him, having resisted the attacks of thousands of ticks on him without taking fever, having withstood several long journeys by road and rail, so that when he arrived in Kingston last he was in an emaciated condition, he is apparently not to be easily killed. He was in the capable hands of the Director of Agriculture at Hope Gardens for two months and when sold was in vigorous condition with a sleek hide, limpid

The red shorthorn bull "Henbury Beau" is stationed at Hope Gardens, and is in fine condition. He also was returned from the country to us in an emaciated state. The Hereford bull "Sylvester" is the only bull that has been well kept all along, and he is at present at "Annandale," in St. Ann, for service there. (See advertisement).

* * *

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION.—We have published the Judge's reports of the results in this competition as carried through in St. Andrew, St. James, St. Elizabeth and Clarendon. It has been impossible to insert so far the full list of awards. Many competitors are anxious to see how they stand, and although it is an expensive matter to publish the lists, we shall be glad to do this in the May JOURNAL,—in the meantime we have informed each competitor of the marks he gained.

The prizes in St. Andrew were distributed at a well attended meeting held in the Court House at Stony Hill, by His Excellency the Governor, the Rev. Mr. Jones of Cambridge presiding. This was an interesting meeting.

It has not been possible to hold public meetings in St. Elizabeth, but the Instructor there, Mr. Palache, has handed over the cheques for prizes and the certificates. That has also been done in St. James.

We hope ourselves to attend meetings in Clarendon in the month of May, to distribute the prizes.

Members of Branch Societies in the parish of St. Thomas, Portland, St. Catherine and Trelawny, should note that the competition will take place in these parishes this year.

* * *

EXPORTS.—With the 31st March the financial year ended. All through the year we have been watching the exports of the island carefully. In November last we wrote on this subject and noted that we were far behind in almost every item of our exports, but hoped that with promising weather we would begin to make up leeway: because we were 6,000 tons behind in sugar, 163,000 gallons behind in rum, we then thought that we would not be able to make up all the leeway. We wrote that we were hopelessly behind with 4,000,000 coconuts, and 1,000 cwt. in cocoa,—but we were confident that we would make up with cocoa by the end of March. The earth has not been properly saturated since the drought—yet unexpected good rains coming in Christmas week and in January, did great good, and as the weather seems to have broken in April, the ordinary spring drought, although it has delayed crops a little, has not done any serious harm. We have made up on last year in bananas, having exported to the end of March, 14,277,300 stems as against 13,950,767 stems last year. This is still far behind our largest total, but with ordinary good seasons, we should add two or three million to this total this year. We have done extraordinarily well far better than anybody could have anti-

cipated, in sugar and rum, and finished up the year only 4,100 gals. of rum short of last year, while we have actually exported more sugar by a small quantity than last year. We have sent away less coffee by 27,000 cwt., 300,000 less coconuts, less dyewoods, almost a half less oranges, but 12,000 cwt. more of ginger, and three times more pimento than last year.

In cotton we have sent away a total of 21,697 lbs., which is a trifle, but still better than the year before.

* * *

GUINEA CORN.—With the middle of April have come good showers, and all over the dry districts everybody owning a bit of land should have been ready to plant guinea corn. The more we have experience of this plant the more we are of opinion that it is one of the most useful for a cultivator, especially on light soil and in a dry climate. It is an accommodating plant too, and can be planted at all times of the year whenever there is a little rain, successfully, so those who have missed April can make ready to plant in June immediately after the May rains—if we get them. It is much quicker than country corn, and much more certain, while it is a far better food for poultry, and just as good food for horses—and if it happens to get cropped by an animal it is not destroyed, but will still grow heads and send up ratoons. With guinea corn, gungo peas, black-eye peas, and cassava, all of which can be stored in barrels, and be kept over from one season to another, no small settler, even in the driest districts, should want for food unless perhaps in extraordinary long-continued drought, such as we have gone through. The dry weather period must be looked upon as winters which have to be prepared for as people in northern countries have to do. Even the bees and the ants in hot countries do not lose their habit of storing up foods, because they know that there may be long-continued drought or long-continued spells of wet weather, when they would not be able to be outside seeking for food.

We have guinea corn seed in hand at 4½d. per lb. for goo[d] native, and 7½d per lb. for the imported.

STOCK NOTES.

IN an investigation as to the fat content of milk carried out i[n] Sweden in connection with a herd of pure-bred and improve[d] Ayrshires which extended over eight years, and represented result[s] from 393 animals and 18439 milking tests, the average percentag[e] of fat in the milk over the whole period was 3.68, but each mont[h] shewed considerable variation starting from 3.70 in January, bu[t] falling steadily to about 3.50 in June, in July it reached 3.70 an[d] continued to rise till the end of November when it stayed at abou[t] 3.83. The richness of the milk itself seems to be related to th[e] age of the cows as the milk over the whole period of lactation o

4 three year old cows average 3.83, and of 150 three year old, :.74. Thereafter, up to the tenth year there was not much variaion, and the general average of which was 3.67. There was not nuch variation in the quality, so long as the yield was fairly ormal, but with a low yield the fat content was high and the everse with a higher yield.

For the first month, after calving the milk averaged at 3.75 er cent. of fat, but rapidly decreased and reached its minimum, .50 per cent. of fat in the third month. It then rose steadily till he close of the lactation period, which was 11 months, 4.14 per ent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Only letters with replies likely to be of general use are published here.)

An entensive grower of cocoa in St. Ann writes :—Thanks for your etter referring to the use of "apterite" for destroying grubs around the oots of cocoa trees. I am not much troubled with these worms. What s causing anxiety is the excessive number of large, healthy pods exhibitng black rot on the eve of maturity. Will you advise your instructors to e on the look out for that terrible scourge, the white termite? It feeds n the green wood, and can not be detected except by observing a dark xcresence on the trunk of the tree, which continues to bear fruit in aparent health, until the inner wood is eaten out completely. Then comes sudden collapse.

* * *

The termites make no tunnel to reach their entrenched positions in he cocoa trees. Sometimes they come up from the roots, but chiefly start hen there has been a wound of some sort, as after the hurricane it was mpossible to tend every fracture. I have got rid of them in my trees— o far as it is possible to see—through injecting "carbolineum" by means f a fine spout into the seat of their operations. Very frequently this an only be effected by employing a large gimlet, and letting the liquid ork downward, because the insects bore upwards. I think excessive amp is the main cause of black rot; for on speaking of it to Mr. Cradick in April last, he told me the trouble had got into the Enfield district. ince August last there has never been a full 10 days without rain here.

February 20th, 1909.

* * *

The hog-sickness appears to have started in our district, over five ogs having died in the village during the past week, and all the sympoms appear the same. I have lost a fine shoat. She just looked a bit roopy, then lay down all the time breathing hard and occasionally giving slight squeal as if suffering pain. Later the hind quarters seemed to et weak and unable to sustain the weight in walking, and after three ays' illness death ensued. Another fine pig of mine is now developing ie symptoms. Kindly favour me with early information for dealing ith this disease so as to prevent its further ravages in this district.

Port Maria.

[The symptoms appear more like intestinal worms than hog-cholera. t any rate keep the hogs on clean ground, provide plenty of shade and ean, cool water. Give a dose of two tablespoonsful of turpentine in a alf-pint bottle of castor oil to a full grown hog, and repeat the following eek. Feed on sloppy food and put a handful of wood ash and a handful charcoal in the food. Provide plenty of green food also.—Ed.]

Can any of the readers of the JOURNAL beat the following for quick breeding. "In October 1906, I bought a milch cow with a calf at foot and she has given me *four* calves since."—C. A. T. FURSDON.

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Here is another case :—I paid five guineas to the late Dr. Gibb for a young bull just dropped (Dec. 1904), the progeny of his imported Jersey bull, out of an imported dairy Shorthorn cow. I fed the little bull well, but I never *at any time gave him more than two quarts of fresh cows milk*, as milk was at the time scarce, and I soon weaned him off that. He was therefore fed principally on artificial foods, but fed well. He was full grown to all appearance at 11 months and served a cow, which got to him, and at 12 months I turned him among the cows. The first cow dropped a heifer calf very Jersey-looking in appearance, in Aug. 1906. This heifer was bred by accident, at 15 months old,—she dropped her first calf, a heifer, when she was two years old, and exactly a year later she dropped her next calf, a very fine heifer. Within two months after dropping this calf, she took the bull again, and all this of her own volition. She is at present in calf, and appears to be going to turn out a most prolific breeder, and she also keeps in good condition. I expect her third calf in September of this year, when this heifer will be just four years old.—J. B.

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I bought a goat that recommended herself to me as a milker by the splendid size of her udder. To my disappointment and regret she does not give more than half a condensed milk can. Her udder is almost as big as a cow's. I give her the best feeding, hog slip, green and ripe bananas, and a handful of corn now and then with the above result. Her kids are just six weeks old and are good looking and healthy. She is not hard to milk, &c. Can you or any of your readers let me know how to get the flow of milk. I should be much obliged. —Mrs. R. A. B., Buff Bay.

[Perhaps the change of location has affected the nanny, or perhaps she is old and the strain of bearing the kids is enough for her at her age. If she is not old the good feeding and attention will bring her round, but we suspect she is old.—ED.]

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I find difficulty in getting guinea and St. Mary's grass cut in quantity by the labourers in my neighbourhood. Can you or any of your subscribers recommend a thoroughly reliable machine for the purpose to be worked by a mule or pair. The pasture land I would use it on is free of stumps and large stones. Is any machine of the description to be seen at work anywhere in the island, if so where ?—G. P. DEWAR, Duncans.

[We know of at least two of such machines at work, and have referred our correspondent to one of our advertisers who supplied these machines. Any further information will of course, be useful.—ED.]

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We would like very much to know if you will send a sample of lemon grass for a purpose, and information regarding its growth and development. And are there other natural herbal or grass, or foliage fragrances that are retained by *drying*. Volatile fragrance would not be desired by us. The enquiries herein suggest themselves. And anything additional of interest would be gratefully received. A mail sample of fresh lemon grass weighing 10 or 12 ounces will enable us to judge of value and quality and further plans could be made for a somewhat larger quantity. Is there any time when lemon grass is more fragrant ? Any time of year when there is more oil ? How long a time is needed for it to grow to the condition best for our use ? (We want the oil to dry in the grass, and do not want to express the oil). Does it grow better in certain parts of the island ? Can you estimate closely the price in small bales ready for delivery to the steamer ?—V. D. DYGERT, New York, 115 Nassau Street,

Can you inform me what is the best thing to kill woodants otherwise called duck ants ? They are a terror to beekeepers in my district. I have tried calomel and rough-on-rats without any success. They eat to dust hives, stand, covers and sometimes frames. I have several apiaries and every one of them is attacked by this pest. I don't know how to get rid of them.—O. A. S.

[A proprietary article advertised in this JOURNAL, has been recommended.—ED.]

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I shall be glad if you will give me an effective remedy for the destruction of woodants commonly called "duckants." Months ago, I found they had got into the roof of my house and built a large nest there. I experimented for a long while with calomel and jeyes fluid without the desired effect. On the advice of someone. I tried a large kettle of boiling water. This I did by taking the boiling water on the roof and with a sharp knife, made a large circular hole in the crown of the nest and then applied the boiling water. Three days after I examined and removed the nest, and every one of them was dead, in fact they were getting offensive. This cure did not reach those outside the nest and they have now scattered in a series of net-work all over the walls and ceiling. I am afraid these tracks of theirs lead to another hidden nest, somewhere in the house. I note (personal observation) that these ants never attack roofs covered with cedar shingles, they confine themselves chiefly to cypress shingles and American wood. I observe also that a coat of paint on the cypress shingles seem to keep them off for good. Houses here roofed with cypress shingles, painted, have escaped them, while those of the same material unpainted seem to attract them. Kindly advise.—J. P. DUFFEY, Bath.

[If painted with the proprietary preparation called "Solignum" advertised in the JOURNAL, wherever duckants are seen they will not touch the wood. Hard native lumber, and cedar especially, are not affected like American pine or cypress. Destroy their nests (with a syringe if necessary) with hot tar water.—ED.]

BRANCH NOTES.

Upper Trelawny.—The regular meeting was held at Albert Town on Wednesday, 31st March, E. Arnett, Esq., President, in the chair. Thirty-one members of the Branch were in attendance. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, the first item on the agenda was the Secretary's report of the work done by the Board of Management to quarter ending 31st March, 1909. In the report the Secretary made special reference (1) to the agricultural improvements of the district, to say nothing of the progress of the Branch to date. It was also gratifying to note that the 60 paid-up members (with the exception of the ex-officio members, 2) were residents of Upper Trelawney. (Cheers.) (2) The season --The rains have not continued in the way we should have wished, hence the soil is dry and thirsty, which if continued will be sure to bring in the near furture a scarcity of ground food. The people should be encouraged to plant such as corn, peas and potatoes. These will come in during the hard months. On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Perrin, a vote of thanks was heartily accorded the Secretary for having furnished so satisfactory a report. At this stage the names of Messrs. Henry Ewan, W. D. Limonius and James Dunstan were proposed for enrolment as members. The Secretary next read communications from the following :—Jno. Barclay, Esq., *re* vegetable seeds, etc. Jno. Barclay and E. Arnett, Esquires, *re* paragraph in last report stating the "district was anything but satisfied with the services of the Instructor," also asking for explanation as to why his services had been unsatisfactory.

The Secretary *re* the cause of complaint brought forward at the last meeting against the Agricultural Instructor. The *Jamaica Times* Printery *re* printing of 100 copies of the Rules of the Society. The Secretary of the Ulster Spring Agricultural Society *re* the retention of the funds of the U. S. A. Society. W. L. Levy, Esq., Secretary St. Ann's Agricultural Show, *re* exhibits. Resolution *re* the Burns Hill road, was allowed to remain over for the next meeting. A discussion on the subject of complaint against the Agricultural Instructor brought out the following facts : (a) That the dissatisfaction complained of in the report of the last meeting and published in the *Daily Telegraph* of the 6th March, to a certain extent was misleading, in as much as the Instructor, through pressure of work in several other parishes, was unable to visit the district. (b) That the dissatisfaction felt was only through his absence from the district but not for any services. (c) That the demonstration ground was started by the Branch and overlooked by the former Instructor, who on finding it neglected advised it to be dropped. After the discussion the meeting unanimously agreed that there was no fault on the part of the Instructor personally and urged that he should think nothing further of the matter as no harm was meant. The Instructor advised that in future any member requiring his services should inform the Secretary, through whom all necessary arrangements, such as visiting of fields, etc., will be made. The President next brought to the notice of the meeting that the six months for which he had promised to serve the Society had expired, and begged to tender his resignation as President of the Society. It was unanimously agreed that the President be asked to re-consider his decision. This he consented to do, but not for any period above three months. Ticks, Foot and Mouth Diseases, and the Prize Holdings Competition, also came up for discussion. After the usual vote of thanks, the meeting terminated. —A. A. PALMER, Secretary.

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Giddy Hall (St. Elizabeth).—A meeting was held on Wednesday, March 24th, 1909, in the Giddy Hall schoolroom. Our Agricultural Instructor, J. T. Palache, Esq., was present, and the meeting was called that the members might learn the results of the Small Holdings Competition. Mr. Tomlinson told the members that a great many of his breadfruit trees were not bearing and asked the Instructor's advice on the matter. Mr. Palache advised him to get wood ashes, then after well forking round his trees, to apply the ashes, but not too near the trunk. He told the members that there are three chief plant foods in the soil, *i.e.*, nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. All these are found in farmyard manure. Complaints were also made that cocoes rotted in rich soil and damp valleys. This was through lack of drainage and because care was not taken in selecting good heads. If a cocoe head has the slightest speck of rot, it should not be planted. The President pointed out that the meeting was called to hear Mr. Palache on the small Holdings; he welcomed that gentleman and asked him to give the results of the Competition. After Mr. Arnett's report had been read by the Secretary, Mr. Palache warmly congratulated the prize-winners and the Branch for having done so well. He urged them not to rest on their laurels, but seek by intelligent effort to further improve their holdings ; and he bade the unsuccessful ones try again bravely, and not allow themselves to be discouraged by their failure to secure prizes. The Jamaican planter, he said, makes a great mistake by going in largely for a product when the price is very high ; for at such a time producers in all parts are turning their attention to the article, and clever men are seeking for a substitute. Take logwood for example, when the price was very high, everyone rushed to plant it, and what happened ? Chemists discovered substitutes, and logwood is only saleable now because it is a cheap and good black dye. Many people say that logwood is the curse of St. Elizabeth ; it has seriously injured the stock for it is highly astringent and robs the soil of

much nourishment. Our Instructor advised us to "stick to our old friends," the four C's, chocolate, corn, cassava and coffee. Bananas and oranges are very good accessories, but perhaps the very time we wish to sell, no one is buying. Coffee can always be sold; when the price is low, there is an increased demand, people use it who could not afford to do so before, and thus a taste is acquired which they continue to gratify even when the price has risen again. Chocolate is another old friend we must not neglect; cocoa trees would thrive and bear well in the fertile valleys of our district. Breadfruit trees too are useful friends, affording food for man and beast. With the spare breadfruits we can fatten our pigs, and thus be able to corn our own pork and save the enormous amount of money yearly paid to America for salt meat. Corn should be planted to a greater extent, and more carefully. If land were well forked and prepared and manured, we should get better crops. In England and Scotland wheat to-day is growing on same lands on which it waived a thousand years ago. Why can we not do the like with corn in Jamaica with our lands and our climate? Last but not least is our old friend cassava. We know many uses for cassava here, such as starch, bammy, tapioca, etc., but many more have been discovered. But we must work hard, and work intelligently; we must not be afraid to dig. The Americans are noted for labour-saving machinery, but many Jamaicans are noted for labour-saving excuses. The ground for cassava must be prepared as carefully as for canes; for the first six months corn or beans may grow with it, but not longer. Mr. Palache begged his hearers to work like men, to use knowledge, intelligence and industry, and great would be their progress; and peace and virtue and sweet content would be throughout the land. The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Palache for his most interesting and instructive address. This was unanimously given, and the meeting was brought to a close with the Benediction.—G. L. MAXWELL, Secretary.

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Springfield (St. Elizabeth).—An extraordinary meeting was held on the 25th March. The members present were: the President and ten others, and some visitors, two of whom subsequently became members, namely, Messrs. C. Shaw and Ed. Carnegie. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. In answer to the Chairman as to the formation of the jippi-jappa class, the Secretary pointed out that sufficient names had not been subscribed, in consequence of which this subject should be left over for next meeting. Read letter from Mr. Barclay, a reply to application for refund of delegate's fee, which ends the matter. Mr. Palache was now asked to address the meeting. He presented a list of the result of the judging of the holdings, and congratulated the Branch for having captured two prizes. He encouraged the members of the Branch to improve their properties, at the same time pointing out to the members that they need not be discouraged when they lose, as not all can win. He was satisfied with the improved cultivations he saw as he came along Woodlands, and remarked that the bananas and plantains grown in the school garden here are equal to those grown anywhere else in the island. He would like to see the cultivation of cassava extended as there might be money in it. He promised to give some practical demonstration when he came again. The Chairman expressed great pleasure in conveying a vote of thanks, moved and seconded, to the lecturer. Mr. Palache having to go off left the meeting, the Chairman also left and Mr. Tom Smith, Vice-chairman, took the chair. Messrs. C. Shaw and Ed. Carnegie became members. A committee was formed consisting of the following: Messrs. Geo. Eldridge, O. B. Atkinson, John Shaw, W. Pitter, Jas. Poyser, Chas. Searlet, David T. Senior, C. Shaw, and Ed. Carnegie. Mr. M. J. Chambers should have given a lecture which will be delivered at

Santa Cruz Mountains (St. Elizabeth).— A meeting was held on the 19th March, 1909. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m., with the President in the chair. There were twenty members present. The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th February were read and confirmed. *Correspondence from the Santa Cruz Branch was read. Through a suggestion* from this Branch, the Santa Cruz Branch has agreed to co-operate with us in the holding of a show in connection with this Branch. To facilitate the business a committee was appointed to meet a committee from this Branch to make arrangements. The committee from this Branch consists of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant-secretary, also Messrs. Wm. Farquharson and Robert Murray. The committee meets on the 16th of April. At this point the orange rinder was shown and its operation explained. The Travelling Instructor here announced that this Branch had done well in the recent Prize Holdings Competition. The result is : Mr. Wm. Farquharson has obtained £1 5/ as fourth prize in the first class, Mr. N. E. Seal £3 as first prize in the second class, Mr. Robert Salmon £1 4/ as third prize in the third class, and Mr. Jos. Salmon, a beginner, 4/- as a special prize. It was moved by Mr. A. R. Knight, and seconded by the Rev. S. C. Ashton, that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded the Travelling Instructor for his valuable aid to the Society in the past, the result of which is shown in the improvement of the holdings generally. This was unanimously carried. The Travelling Instructor then gave a very interesting lecture on the cultivation and uses of the cassava plant, through which a valuable and useful industry can be developed. The next meeting was fixed for the fourth Friday in April. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned. —N. E. SEAL, Secretary.

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St. Ann's.—*A meeting of the Council was held at Claremont, 17th* March, 1909. Present : J. E. L. Cox, President, Hon. H. P. Cox, Rev. H. Sharpe, Dr. Ffrench-Mullen, Colonel Moulton-Barrett and Miss Ffrench-Mullen, Secretary. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Letter read from Mr. C. N. Heming regretting his inability to attend. Messrs. Alphege Phillipps and C. McDonnaugh, of Claremont, proposed as new members by Dr. Ffrench- Mullen, seconded by Mr. J. E. L. Cox, and were elected. Mr. St. Leger Tivy, proposed as a member by Colonel Moulton-Barrett, seconded by Dr. Ffrench Mullen, was elected. Mr. J. E. L. Cox's account of 14/ travelling expenses in connection with the half-yearly general meeting, held in Kingston in January, was passed, and the Secretary was instructed to forward the amount to Mr. Cox. The Secretary, Miss Ffrench-Mullen, tendered her resignation, which was accepted, and a resolution of regret that she found it necessary to resign her post, was passed, also a vote of thanks for her services during the time she acted as Secretary. His Honour the Custos moved that Dr. Ffrench-Mullen be elected as honourary Secretary in place of Miss Ffrench-Mullen resigned, seconded by Colonel Moulton-Barrett and carried. Moved by Mr. J. E. L. Cox, that the honourary Secretary Dr. Ffrench-Mullen, be empowered to obtain the services of a clerical assistant at a remuneration not exceeding £5 per annum, seconded by Hon. H. Cox and carried. Colonel Moulton-Barrett expressed his willingness to be responsible for the whole amount or even for £10 if necessary, but those present, while appreciating his generous offer, deemed it hardly fair that he should be responsible for the whole sum, and the following resolution was moved by His Hon. the Custos : "Whereas it is desirable to provide for the payment of the £5 referred to in a preceding resolution, in the event of the Society's funds being insufficient for the purpose, that the Secretary be requested to ascertain what members of the Council will take part in a personal guarantee of the amount and to what extent." Seconded by Mr. J. E. L. Cox and carried. Colonel Moulton-Barrett brought to the notice of the Council the fact

that he and some brother-penkeepers in the district, had been losing stock, the apparent cause being, especially in the case of calves, the mothers eating a poisonous weed, not identified, but which, it is said, appears in the pastures in the months between October and March inclusive. After some discussion on the matter, the following resolution was moved by Colonel Moulton-Barrett : "In view of the above facts and in the opinion of this Branch, there not being as far as we know any efficient means in this colony by which the poisonous action of certain unknown plants on stock can be ascertained, we consider that the matter should be submitted to the different Branches by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, with a view to ascertaining if similar conditions exist in other parishes, so that the Government might be approached with regard to taking the necessary steps to obtain the services of a man competent to cope with this evil." Seconded by Revd. H. Sharpe and carried. Colonel Moulton-Barrett asked if no accounts of the work of this Branch were ever sent in to the Jamaica Agricultural Society, as he frequently saw reports from other districts in the JOURNAL but none from this, to which the Secretary replied that when anything of special interest was discussed at a meeting, a report was sent in to the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and that an account of the meeting held in February had been forwarded to him. Mr. St. Leger Tivy was proposed as a member of the Council of this Branch by Colonel Moulton-Barrett, seconded by Dr. Ffrench-Mullen, and was elected. The meeting then adjourned.

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Above Rocks (St. Catherine).—The regular monthly meeting was held in the St. Mary's schoolroom on Friday, March 19th. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Several letters were read and discussed. Proposals regarding the St. Thomas-in-the-Vale show were discussed. The proposals made at the previous meeting for the improvement of poultry and small-stock, came in for a lengthy discussion. The matter was finally deferred for the next meeting, as the meeting was not sufficiently large to discuss the matter satisfactorily. After a few other matters of local importance were dealt with, the meeting adjourned. The threatening drought has been checked by a few healthy showers, and cultivations are looking well. There is a fair sale of bananas. The hat trade is brisk, but there are several inferior articles on the market. These should be rejected at once. There is a fair quantity of peas, corn, and ground provisions, and all things point to a prosperous year.—W. L. F. VASSALL, Secretary.

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Springfield (St. James).—A special meeting of this Branch was held on 5th March, 1909. Present: Mr. H. D. D. Mennell, Travelling Instructor, and six others. The Vice-president explained the object of the meeting and called the Instructor to the chair. He expressed regret that his letter did not reach in time so as to give sufficient notice for a better gathering. He said it gives him great pleasure that there was much improvement in the prize-winning of the locality. The following is a list of the successful competitors :—Mr. W. T. Reid, 3rd prize, 1st class, £2 ; Mr. A. Hall, 3 prize, 2nd class, £1 10; Mr. J. Harrison, 4th prize, 2nd class, £1 ; Mr. Josiah Armstrong, 2nd prize, 3rd class, £1 11s. ; Miss Mary Allen, 5th prize, 3rd class, 9/. Each of the following wins a special prize of four shillings :—Messrs. E. Perkins, Josiah Linton, John Chisholm, C. B. Thomas, G. E. Thompson and W. Leach. All distributed. Mr. Mennell said that in a thing of this kind, there will be dissatisfaction as well as satisfaction, but he had tried his best in the competition. Here it was agreed to ask Mr. G. H. Leader to give us a lecture on agriculture at Mr. Mennell's next visit. Mr. Josiah Armstrong, Montego Bay P.O., and Mr. J. Harrison, Montego Bay P.O., were proposed as members. There was a lengthy discussion on praedial larceny, which led to the agreement

that information be obtained from the parent Society in regard to the law in connection with a person who punishes a thief by causing him to *pay for the article stolen. This step was taken as there was a variety of* views on the point. The meeting was here brought to a close, but the rain having set in, prevented its dispersion for some time, which was occupied with many useful discussions. After this it adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Instructor.—D. ADOLPHUS SMART, Secretary.

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Port Royal Mountains (St. Andrew).—The general meeting of this Branch was held at Mount Fletcher, on Saturday, March 13th. There were present: Rev. C. H Coles, President, and 11 others. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary intimated that five out of six competitors who entered from this immediate district in the prize-holdings competition, won prizes. The President intimated that he saw the Surveyor General on the subject of the Crown lands, and gathered from his remarks that neither the Government nor himself was anxious to see the Crown lands occupied. It was decided that when the time was ripe, due representation be made on the subject, as we were not seeking after lands on the ridges but the lower portions, the clearing of which would not affect the forest lands. Several points conducive to the improvement of the district so as to make it more attractive to visitors were discussed. It was decided to ask the Parochial Board to remove a large overhanging boulder on the road leading from the driving road to Mount Fletcher Church gate and to otherwise improve the said road. It was also decided to approach the Director of Public Works with a view to getting the road from the Saint Michael's gate, the present terminus of the driving road, to Mount Charles, kept in such a condition as to allow of wheeled traffic. The Secretary intimated that Mr. Briscoe had secured a grant of cocoa plants for members of this Branch from the Director of Agriculture, and advised that application be made for same. The Secretary read a copy of the address to be presented to the Governor on the occasion of the opening of the driving road, which was adopted. The holding of the local show was fixed for the first Wednesday in July. The following were appointed on the show committee:—Rev. C. H. Coles, Rev. N. A. Baquie, Messrs. W. G. Thompson, D. H. Willis, R. Sidgewick, J. Whitworth, Charles Davis, R. Simons, R. S. Henry, N. A. Blake, C. C. Ireland, R. S. Tait, J. S. McDermott, Alex. Roberts, and Thomas Jackson. The meeting then adjourned till the following Monday. C. L. A. RENNALS, Secretary.

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Trinity Ville (St. Thomas).—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Church of England schoolroom on March 19th at 4 p.m. There were present: Messrs. W. A. R. Carr, President; J. Briscoe, Travelling Instructor and 13 others. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary reported that the meeting which should have been held on the 5th inst., fell through. The President said that he did not attend as he was dissatisfied with the action of some members in rescinding motions passed at previous meetings (referring to fowls). Mr. Briscoe also spoke and referred to a letter he had seen in a newspaper in connection with the Branch. He recommended the keeping of the fowls for the benefit of members. A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. J. A. Telfer finally moved, seconded by Mr. A. Taylor, that two cocks, pure-bred, be purchased at once by the Society to improve the breed of fowls. Mr. Edman moved as an amendment, that all matters pertaining to the keeping of fowls, be left over for the next or any other subsequent meeting. The amendment was lost only the mover voting. The meeting went into committee to deal with the matter and made certain recommendations. The meeting resumed and recommendations adopted. Read

operation on certain matters to be referred to the Honourable Legislative Council. This was agreed to. The President said that he was thinking of the suggestion of a show, but as the Prize-Holdings Competition was for the parish this year, he thought it might lie over until next year. Other speakers followed, the majority of whom were so inclined. The matter, however, dropped. The Secretary stated that he had given Mr. Barclay a copy of the last annual meeting for publication in the JOURNAL, but neither appeared. In reply to his letter to him he wrote: "The JOURNAL can only hold a limited number of Branch notes, and those received first get the preference. Although the JOURNAL was late I finished with the printer from the 27th inst. (January), and it was the printer's delay." Mr. Barclay also wrote making enquiry in connection with the letter published in a newspaper of a "split" among certain members. The next matter dealt with was a letter from the Secretary tendering his resignation. Mr. Briscoe moved, seconded by Mr. J. A. Telfer, that Mr. Edman gives reason for so doing, and that he be asked to withdraw his resignation. This was done, after which the President spoke and the matter ended. The Instructor gave an interesting address. He explained thoroughly the working of the Prize-Holdings scheme to be held in the parish this year, and asked that members take all the interest possible to improve their holdings, the entrance fee being only 1/, so that even if a man were to lose in the competition, his holdings would be far better than if he did not enter at all. He also said that the necessary forms will be sent to the Secretary as soon as possible. A vote of thanks was accorded the gentleman on motion of Messrs. Carr and Edman. The President also gave encouraging remarks. Mr. Edman said he would like to refer to the fact that during the last year, Mr. Briscoe only paid two visits to the district, and during his address he said he did not know when he would be back again. He went on to say St. Thomas got very little of his services, St. Andrew and St. Mary getting almost all. He has seen none of his reports published or otherwise. Mr. Briscoe replied, his reason for saying he did not know when he would be back, was that the Government was contemplating sending Mr. Cradwick to a part of the parish, with a local man to reside at Bath (Mr. Edman: "We want a trained man.") Relative to his reports, he sends them to the Director of Agriculture, who never published such reports, but they had been circulated among the members of the Board of Agriculture. Three members paid their annual subscription. Meeting adjourned. We are anticipating a large cocoa crop this year. Coffee and oranges are blossoming freely. Bananas are scarce, the price being, 9-hands 1/3, 8-hands 10½d, and 7-hands 7½d. For the past few days the sun has been very hot, and if it were to continue for any length of time, I am afraid plants will suffer very much. We are very pleased to see that £600 has been voted by the Legislative Council for road improvement from Trinity Ville to Mt. Vernon, as the matter was first taken up by this Branch, being the centre of the fruit trade here.—J. T. EDMAN, Hon. Secretary.

[When the Instructors' districts are re-grranged, it is likely that Mr. Briscoe will retain that part of St. Thomas west of the Johnson River including Trinity Ville, Aeolus Valley and Yallahs district.—SEC.]

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Stewart Town (Trelawny).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday evening, April 1. In the absence of the President and the Vice-president, Mr. John Stockhausen was requested to preside. Eight members were present and the Secretary. Mr. Arnett, the Agricultural Instructor, was also present. The minutes of the last meeting held January 28, were read and confirmed. Mr. Arnett urged the members of the Branch to prepare and get ready exhibits for the Minard show, April 22, and advised them to attend the show, as they would see things that would be an education to them. He directed their attention to articles in the [illegible] list which they could send to the show. The show to be held at

Ulster Spring next claimed attention, and the members present expressed their willingness to co-operate by sending exhibits. Copies of prize list received from the Secretary of the Ulster Spring Branch were distributed. Mr. Arnett informed the meeting that the Prize-Holdings Competition would take place in this parish this year. He fully explained the scheme and expressed the hope there will be some entries for it in this district. He strongly advised the Branch to take an interest in the competition, which was doing a great deal of good in other parts of the island, and which would do the same good for Stewart Town. The Stewart Town Branch is doing steady work, its influence is being felt, and it must eventually bring about much good in this community. He would. therefore, impress on the Branch the importance of moving in this matter of the Prize-Holdings Competition. If any wished to enter for the competition, they could give in their names to the Secretary, who would submit them to him, and he would be willing to visit their homesteads, and give any instructions they needed. Mr. Samuel Barnett brought up the matter of rat pest, and asked Mr. Arnett for information about the rat virus he mentioned some months ago. He wanted to know how the poison was to be got. Mr. Arnett suggested that the Secretary write to the Director of Agriculture asking him to send a sample of the rat virus to introduce to the Branch. Mr. Stockhausen advised that poison be set for rats continually, and he knew of no poison more effective in killing rats as the Roth's and Ringeisen's Phosphor Paste. Mr. George Hill mentioned the hardships of the residents of the Biddeford and Jackson Hill districts to obtain water in the present dry weather. There was no way of getting down to the Dornock River for water through Hopewell, the proprietor having stopped the path through his property. It was a matter that claimed the immediate consideration of the authorities. That very morning a poor man had to pay 8/ because his children went to take a little water from the pond at Barnstaple. It was decided that the Branch discuss the matter at its next meeting, and take some steps to urge the matter on the attention of the Parochial Board. The road leading into Liberty Hall and Friendship Mountain again came up for consideration. The parties interested are not disposed to drop the matter. It was decided that the election of officers for this year, which should have taken place in January, be attended to at the next meeting. A vote of thanks was heartily given to Mr. Arnett for attending the meeting although he had just returned home from travelling; and especially so as on the previous night he was at Albert Town attending the meeting of the Branch there, returning home quite tired. Mr. Arnett suitably replied. The meeting then adjourned.—The Secretary.

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Portland.—The St. Margaret's Bay held its monthly meeting on Saturday, 6th March. There were present: The Rev. P. A. Conahan, President, W. Cradwick, Esq., Travelling Instructor, and 11 others. The time was spent in discussing matters relating to the show to come off on 24th June. Mr. Cradwick promised to give all the help he could. He also made arrangements for visiting the several districts around. Mr. Morris, a new member, on whose lands the race course where the show is to be held is situated, promised his help in looking after the preparation of the grounds, etc. It is to be hoped the show will be a success.---ALBERT ROPER, Secretary.

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Gibraltar (St. Ann).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Friday the 26th inst., at 4.30 p.m., Mr. Arnett presiding. There were also present eight other members and the Secretary. Many of the members who are highly interested in the agricultural advancement of this and the neighbouring districts and in the entire island, would have turned up, had it not been for a splendid downpour of rain which was long looked for.

For nearly three weeks there have been splendid sun-shiny days, but owing to the paucity of the water supply in and around the district, the ways and means of getting water, was a serious question in the minds of all This copious downpour was indeed a blessing. The minutes were read and confirmed. The question of restoring the "Old China Breed of Pigs" into the locality was definitely settled, especially as Mr. Arnett is enthusiastic about the re-introduction of this breed. Mr. Holland s offer to small-settlers was discussed. Mr. Arnett gave a thorough explanation of the scheme. It was to the regret of the meeting that none of the members of this Branch would be eligible to compete. Those who were landowners had more than the prescribed acreage. Others were tenants, and were, therefore, ineligible. The meeting, on behalf of the small-settlers, thanked Mr. Holland for his generous offer. Mr. Arnett spoke about "Cassava" in a highly encouraging manner. He was sanguine that within the near future, there would be a great demand for this staple which has such a diversity of uses. He strongly advised to make special efforts to increase the amount of cassava planted annually. His advice was to plant it separately in plots, and not in conjunction with yams and potatoes, as this was harmful to the productiveness of the cassava crop. He was desirous that experiments should be made to find out the varieties which would be suitable to this locality. From his remarks and the discussion that followed, it is quite likely that more interest will be taken in this staple than hitherto. The next important thing that was discussed was the "Foot and Mouth Disease." Mr. Arnett gave his views on this scourge, as far as he knew. He advised the meeting to be very cautious as to how they allowed their stock to associate with other stock in the tethering ground at market places and at the wharves when they are out selling their bananas. As a preventive he advised the frequent use of Jeyes fluid and water on the faces and legs of stock. The last item was the arrangements that are now on foot *in re* the Brown's Town Agricultural Show. This show is always dependent to a considerable extent on these districts of the Dry Harbour Mountains for exhibits in stock and minor products. This being the case, a committee was appointed to create an interest in the show. Different men were assigned to the different districts, when it is hoped that a good supply of exhibits, especially the minor products, will be sent to the forthcoming show. This is highly requisite, for if people as a whole would look on these shows as something beyond a mere pleasure day, but as tests in order to find out what the districts (in which these shows are held) in particular, and the island in general, are able to produce, then the petitions that are always being sent to headquarters, would be received in a better spirit, and I daresay would be treated with more courtesy. Let those who are in authority see what can be produced, and let them know that more could be produced, but from the want of better roads, and in many places from the want of post-offices, things are kept only at hand-to-month rate.—I. H. EDWARDS, Secretary.

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Guy's Hill (St. Catherine).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday, 18th March, in St. George's schoolroom at 5 o'clock, thirteen members being present. The President and Vice-president being absent, the Rev. A. E. Lewis was asked to preside. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom were referred to, but on account of the absence of the members more identified with the items, discussions had to be deferred. The Secretary read the communication he had received from the Secretary of the parent Society with regard to pigs and goats, and the members present thought there was no need for imported pigs, as good breeds can be had in the district, but that some further inquiry may be made about goats. Members were reminded of the show to be held at Bog Walk next month.—W. F. WATSON,